

H. Res. 517

In the House of Representatives, U. S.,

July 27, 2022.

Whereas this resolution may be cited as the “Original Slavery Remembrance Day Resolution of 2021”;

Whereas the House of Representatives recognizes August 20, 2021, as “Slavery Remembrance Day” and commemorates the lives of all enslaved people while also condemning the act and perpetuation of slavery in the United States of America and across the world;

Whereas we posthumously recognize the following Members of Congress, who served during and after the Reconstruction era, as honorary cosponsors of this resolution: the Honorable Joseph Hayne Rainey (SC–01), Member of Congress from 1870 to 1879, Jefferson Franklin Long (GA–04), Member of Congress from January 1871 to March 1871, Robert Carlos De Large (SC–02), Member of Congress from 1871 to 1873, Robert Brown Elliott (SC–3), Member of Congress from 1871 to 1874, Benjamin Sterling Turner (AL–01), Member of Congress from 1871 to 1873, Josiah Thomas Walls (FL–At Large), Member of Congress from 1871 to 1876, Alanzo Jacob Ransier (SC–02), Member of Congress from 1873 to 1875, Richard Harvey Cain (SC–At Large), Member of Congress from 1873 to 1875 and 1877 to 1879, John Roy Lynch (MS–06), Member of Congress from 1873 to

1877 and 1882 to 1883, James Thomas Rapier (AL-02), Member of Congress from 1873 to 1875, Jeremiah Haralson (AL-01), Member of Congress from 1875 to 1877, John Adams Hyman (NC-02), Member of Congress from 1875 to 1877, Roberts Smalls (SC-07), Member of Congress from 1875 to 1879 and 1882 to 1883 and 1884 to 1887, James Edward O'hara (NC-02), Member of Congress from 1883 to 1887, Herney Plummer Cheatham (NC-02), Member of Congress from 1889 to 1893, John Mercer Langston (VA-04), Member of Congress from 1890 to 1891, Thomas Ezekiel Miller, Member of Congress from 1890 to 1891, George Washington Murray (SC-01), Member of Congress from 1893 to 1895 and 1896 to 1897, and George Henry White (NC-02), Member of Congress from 1897 to 1901;

Whereas, on August 20, 1619, the first 20 enslaved Africans were brought to what is now Fort Monroe, then Point Comfort, in Hampton, Virginia against their will;

Whereas the House of Representatives recognizes August 20, 2021, as “Slavery Remembrance Day” and commemorates the lives of all enslaved people while also condemning the act and perpetuation of slavery in the United States of America and across the world;

Whereas African tribal chiefs captured, enslaved, and sold their captives to transatlantic slave traders;

Whereas, over the period of the Atlantic slave trade, from approximately 1526 to 1867, millions of humans were abducted and shipped from Africa, and 10,700,000 arrived in the Americas as personal property;

Whereas the majority of enslaved Africans brought to British North America arrived between 1720 and 1780;

Whereas about 6 percent of African captives were sent directly to British North America;

Whereas, by 1825, the population of the United States included about one quarter of the people of African descent in what has been called the New World;

Whereas the Middle Passage from West Africa to the West Indies was dangerous and horrific for enslaved people;

Whereas the Middle Passage carried mothers, fathers, children, sisters, brothers, aunts, uncles, cousins, and individuals from all walks of life to slavery in the Americas;

Whereas, although the sexes were separated, men, women, and children were kept naked, packed close together, and the men were chained for long periods;

Whereas, according to some historians, about 12 percent of those who embarked did not survive the voyage;

Whereas sharks followed the slave ships to feed on bodies of slaves thrown overboard;

Whereas enslaved people suffered a variety of miserable and often fatal maladies due to the Atlantic slave trade, and to inhumane living and working conditions;

Whereas infant and child mortality rates were twice as high among slave children as among Southern White children;

Whereas enslaved people often worked from before sunup to after sundown, 6 to 7 days a week often without food for long periods of time;

Whereas enslaved Black families lived with the perpetual possibility of separation caused by the sale of one or more family members;

Whereas it is estimated that approximately one third of enslaved children in the upper South States of Maryland

and Virginia experienced family separation in one of three possible scenarios: sale away from parents, sale with mother away from father, or sale of mother or father away from child;

Whereas Nat Turner was born into slavery in Southampton County, Virginia, in 1800;

Whereas Southampton County was home to many plantations, and enslaved people outnumbered free Whites;

Whereas Turner learned to read and write at a young age, becoming deeply religious;

Whereas Turner was sold to several different masters over the course of his life, the last time in 1830;

Whereas Turner preached to his fellow enslaved people, developing a loyal following;

Whereas Turner began planning a revolt with a few trusted fellow enslaved men from neighboring plantations;

Whereas Turner's rebellion began in August 1831, quickly growing from a small handful of enslaved individuals to more than 70 enslaved and free Blacks;

Whereas the rebels went from house to house in Southampton County, freeing enslaved people;

Whereas the rebels were ultimately defeated by a State militia that had over twice the manpower of the rebels, with three artillery companies reinforcing it;

Whereas Turner was captured 6 weeks after the rebellion was put down, whereupon he was promptly convicted and sentenced to death;

Whereas, in retaliation for the uprising, Virginia officially executed 56 Black people, with at least 100 more killed by militias through extrajudicial violence;

Whereas the rebellion caused widespread panic among slaveholders throughout the South, resulting in widespread violence against enslaved people;

Whereas, in the wake of the rebellion, the Virginia General Assembly passed legislation making it illegal to teach enslaved or free Blacks to read and write;

Whereas the Underground Railroad was a network of individuals who helped around 100,000 slaves escape North;

Whereas the railroad began when a “conductor” often posing as a slave would enter a plantation and attempt to guide runaways;

Whereas escapees would travel 10 to 20 miles each night between safe houses or “stations” to avoid detection, waiting in safe houses for the next along the line to be alerted to their presence;

Whereas individuals running each station, many of whom were White, knew only of local efforts and not the entire operation;

Whereas Harriet Tubman, born Araminta Ross, lived as an enslaved person through her young life where she endured regular whippings and suffered a traumatic head injury at the hands of an overseer, causing her narcoleptic episodes and migraines throughout her life;

Whereas Ms. Tubman escaped from slavery along the Underground Railroad, a network of abolitionists who guided escaped slaves to the North traveling primarily at night to avoid bounty hunters;

Whereas Ms. Tubman returned to the South no less than 13 times to free 70 enslaved persons, including much of her family, for which she would be given the name “Moses”;

Whereas Ms. Tubman deftly led those she saved North during the fall and winter when their would-be captors stayed inside to avoid the cold;

Whereas, in Ms. Tubman's own words, "I never ran my train off the track and I never lost a passenger";

Whereas, during the Civil War, Ms. Tubman served as a nurse, scout, and spy in the Union army, becoming the first woman to plan and lead a military operation in the United States, liberating 700 enslaved people in South Carolina;

Whereas, later in life, Ms. Tubman continued working to improve the lives of oppressed people, raising funds for and building schools as well as a hospital in the name of formerly enslaved people while participating in the women's suffrage movement;

Whereas John Brown, an abolitionist who ran an important stop on the Underground Railroad, dedicated his life to ending slavery;

Whereas Brown lead a militia in guerrilla attacks on proslavery towns in Kansas, losing one of his sons in the struggle;

Whereas Brown, with the help of Harriet Tubman, planned and organized an invasion of the South to free all slaves;

Whereas Brown began his invasion at Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, but was surrounded and captured by Federal troops led by Robert E. Lee, losing two more sons in the fighting;

Whereas the 13th Amendment was passed by Congress on January 31, 1865, and ratified on December 6, 1865, and provides that "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the

party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.”;

Whereas, beginning in the 20th century, African Americans began to relocate from Southern farms to Southern cities, from the South to the Northeast, Midwest, and West, in a movement known as the “Great Migration”;

Whereas the relocation of formerly enslaved individuals and their descendants also included unfavorable and at times unjust interactions with law enforcement that often resulted in imprisonment and convict leasing;

Whereas convict leasing, also known as slavery by another name, was a system that allowed prisons to lease imprisoned individuals to private entities, often corporations and plantations;

Whereas the remains of 95 persons, thought to be of African ancestry, who were subjected to the State of Texas’ convict leasing system were discovered in 2018 at the construction site of Fort Bend Independent School District’s James Reese Career and Technical Center in Sugar Land, Texas;

Whereas, while slavery was abolished, descendants of the enslaved continue to live with the effects of slavery’s progenies: Jim Crow, mass lynching, segregation, police brutality, mass incarceration, and institutionalized racism; and

Whereas, despite the horrors of slavery and against all odds, enslaved people became thought leaders and revolutionaries and changed the course of American history: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This resolution may be cited as the “Original Slavery Remembrance Day Resolution of 2021”.

SEC. 2. SLAVERY REMEMBRANCE DAY.

That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the designation of a “Slavery Remembrance Day” to serve as a reminder of the evils of slavery;

(2) condemns slavery and its evil progenies; and

(3) encourages all to acknowledge the importance of slavery remembrance.

Attest:

Clerk.

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 67

Supporting the designation of August as “Slavery Remembrance Month”, to serve as a reminder of the evils of slavery, its continuing effects, and the freedom fighters who fought to end this horrific crime against humanity.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 3, 2025

Mr. GREEN of Texas (for himself, Mr. CLEAVER, Mrs. McIVER, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois) submitted the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

JOINT RESOLUTION

Supporting the designation of August as “Slavery Remembrance Month”, to serve as a reminder of the evils of slavery, its continuing effects, and the freedom fighters who fought to end this horrific crime against humanity.

Whereas this resolution may be cited as the “Original Slavery Remembrance Month Resolution”;

Whereas it was during the month of August in the year 1619, that the enslavement of African people in the American colonies destined to become the United States of America occurred;

Whereas the House of Representatives and the Senate recognize August as “Slavery Remembrance Month” and com-

memorate the lives of all enslaved people while also condemning the perpetration and perpetuation of slavery in the United States of America and across the world;

Whereas the following Members of Congress are posthumously recognized, individuals who served during and after the Reconstruction Era, as honorary cosponsors of this resolution: the Honorable Joseph Hayne Rainey (SC-01), Member of Congress from 1870 to 1879; Jefferson Franklin Long (GA-04), Member of Congress from January 1871 to March 1871; Robert Carlos De Large (SC-02), Member of Congress from 1871 to 1873; Robert Brown Elliott (SC-3), Member of Congress from 1871 to 1874; Benjamin Sterling Turner (AL-01), Member of Congress from 1871 to 1873; Josiah Thomas Walls (FL-At Large), Member of Congress from 1871 to 1876; Alonzo Jacob Ransier (SC-02), Member of Congress from 1873 to 1875; Richard Harvey Cain (SC-At Large), Member of Congress from 1873 to 1875 and 1877 to 1879; John Roy Lynch (MS-06), Member of Congress from 1873 to 1877 and 1882 to 1883; James Thomas Rapier (AL-02), Member of Congress from 1873 to 1875; Jeremiah Haralson (AL-01), Member of Congress from 1875 to 1877; John Adams Hyman (NC-02), Member of Congress from 1875 to 1877; Robert Smalls (SC-07), Member of Congress from 1875 to 1879 and 1882 to 1883 and 1884 to 1887; James Edward O'Hara (NC-02), Member of Congress from 1883 to 1887; Henry Plummer Cheatham (NC-02), Member of Congress from 1889 to 1893; John Mercer Langston (VA-04), Member of Congress from 1890 to 1891; Thomas Ezekiel Miller, Member of Congress from 1890 to 1891; George Washington Murray (SC-01), Member of Congress from 1893 to 1895 and 1896 to 1897; and

George Henry White (NC–02), Member of Congress from 1897 to 1901;

Whereas there are seminal moments in the annals of time that affect the rest of time;

Whereas, during the month of August in the year 1619, a sinful seminal moment in time occurred that invidiously sculpts and shamefully yet haunts the United States of America;

Whereas August 20, 1619, became a seminal moment in time when the first 20 enslaved Africans were brought against their will to what was then Point Comfort, now Fort Monroe, in Hampton, Virginia, and forced into chattel slavery;

Whereas all, including Africans, who captured, enslaved, and sold captives to transatlantic slave traders are condemned for their perpetration and perpetuation of the evils of enslavement;

Whereas, over the period of the Atlantic slave trade, from approximately 1526 to 1867, millions of humans were abducted and shipped from Africa, and approximately 10,700,000 arrived in the Americas as personal property;

Whereas the majority of enslaved Africans brought to British North America arrived between 1720 and 1780;

Whereas about 6 percent of African captives were sent directly to British North America;

Whereas, by 1825, in what has been called the New World, the United States included about 25 percent people of African descent;

Whereas the deadly, wicked Middle Passage from West Africa to the West Indies was dangerous and horrific for enslaved people;

Whereas mothers, fathers, children, sisters, brothers, aunts, uncles, cousins, as well as people from all walks of life, including artisans, traditional healers, spiritual leaders, agriculturists, artists, chefs, blacksmiths, merchants, and educators, survived the wicked Middle Passage only to suffer the evils of slavery in the Americas;

Whereas, according to some historians, about 12 percent of the enslaved people who embarked did not survive the voyage;

Whereas sharks have been said to have followed the slave ships to feed on bodies of slaves thrown overboard;

Whereas, although the enslaved sexes were separated, men, women, and children were often kept naked, packed close together, and the men were chained for long periods;

Whereas enslaved people suffered a variety of miserable and often fatal maladies as a result of being subjected to inhumane living and working conditions;

Whereas infant and child mortality rates were twice as high among enslaved children as among Southern White children;

Whereas enslaved people often worked from before sunup to after sundown, 6 to 7 days a week, often without sufficient food;

Whereas enslaved Black families lived with the perpetual, dreadful fear of separation caused by the depravity of 1 or more family members being sold;

Whereas it is estimated that approximately one-third of enslaved children in the upper Southern States of Maryland and Virginia experienced family separation through the sale of parents, including the sale of mothers or fathers away from children;

Whereas many of the enslaved, liberated enslaved, freed, and abolitionists have not received their righteous status in history as freedom fighters;

Whereas Prince Hall, a Black freedman, lived in colonial Boston, Massachusetts, circa 1735 to 1807;

Whereas Prince Hall was an ardent pioneer abolitionist, human rights activist, and freedom fighter who preceded Sojourner Truth, John Brown, Nat Turner, and Harriet Tubman during the American Revolutionary period;

Whereas, in 1775, after being denied by an all-White Masonic lodge, freedom fighter Prince Hall and 14 other free Black freedom fighters formed their own lodge;

Whereas freedom fighter Prince Hall was elected as the leader, or “Worshipful Master”, within the newly formed African Lodge #1, later renamed African Lodge No. 459;

Whereas because of this action the freedom fighter Prince Hall is also renowned as the “Father of Black Freemasonry”;

Whereas Prince Hall Freemasonry is the oldest human rights fraternity in the United States of America, predating the Nation’s founding;

Whereas Prince Hall Masons advocated for racial uplift, education, and improving the condition of Black people in America;

Whereas the freedom fighter Nat Turner was born into slavery in Southampton County, Virginia, in 1800;

Whereas Southampton County was home to many plantations, and enslaved people outnumbered free Whites;

Whereas freedom fighter Turner learned to read and write at a young age, becoming deeply religious;

Whereas freedom fighter Turner was sold to several different masters over the course of his life, the last time in 1830;

Whereas freedom fighter Turner preached to fellow enslaved people, developing a loyal following;

Whereas freedom fighter Turner began planning a revolt with a few trusted fellow enslaved men from neighboring plantations;

Whereas freedom fighter Turner led a liberation rebellion beginning in August 1831, quickly growing from a small handful of enslaved people to more than 70 enslaved and free Blacks;

Whereas the liberators went from house to house in Southampton County, freeing enslaved people;

Whereas the liberators were ultimately defeated by a State militia that had over twice their manpower, with 3 artillery companies reinforcing it;

Whereas freedom fighter Turner was captured 6 weeks after the liberation rebellion was put down, whereupon he was promptly convicted and sentenced to death;

Whereas, in retaliation for the liberation uprising, Virginia officially executed 56 Black people, with at least 100 more killed by militias through extrajudicial violence;

Whereas the liberation rebellion caused widespread panic among slaveholders throughout the South, resulting in widespread violence against defenseless enslaved people;

Whereas, in the wake of the liberation rebellion, the Virginia General Assembly passed legislation making it illegal to teach enslaved or free Blacks to read and write;

Whereas the Underground Railroad was a liberation network of freedom fighters who helped around 100,000 enslaved people escape to freedom in the North;

Whereas the liberation Underground Railroad began when a freedom fighter “conductor” often posing as an enslaved person would enter a plantation and attempt to guide runaways;

Whereas liberated escapees would travel 10 to 20 miles each night between safe houses or “stations” to avoid detection, waiting in safe houses for the next freedom fighter along the line to be alerted to their presence;

Whereas freedom fighters supporting escapees at each station (many of whom were White), knew only of local efforts and not the entire liberation operation;

Whereas Harriet Tubman, born Araminta Ross, lived as an enslaved person through her young life where she endured regular whippings and suffered a traumatic head injury at the hands of an overseer enslaver, which caused narcoleptic episodes and migraines throughout her life;

Whereas freedom fighter/liberator Tubman escaped from slavery along the liberation Underground Railroad, the network of abolitionist freedom fighters who guided the liberated to the North traveling primarily at night to avoid bounty hunter enslavers;

Whereas freedom fighter Tubman returned to the South no less than 13 times to liberate 70 enslaved people, including much of her family, for which she would be given the name “Moses”;

Whereas freedom fighter Tubman deftly led those she liberated North during the fall and winter, when would-be enslaver captors would stay inside to avoid the cold;

Whereas, in freedom fighter Tubman’s own words, “I never ran my train off the track and I never lost a passenger”;

Whereas, during the Civil War, freedom fighter Tubman served as a nurse, scout, and spy in the Union army, becoming the first woman to plan and lead a military operation in the United States, liberating 700 enslaved people in the slave State South Carolina;

Whereas, later in life, freedom fighter Tubman continued working to improve the lives of oppressed people, raising funds for and building schools and a hospital in the name of formerly enslaved people while participating in the women’s suffrage movement;

Whereas freedom fighter John Brown, a White abolitionist who ran an important stop on the liberation Underground Railroad, dedicated his life to ending slavery;

Whereas freedom fighter John Brown lead a militia in guerilla attacks on proslavery towns in Kansas, losing one of his sons in the liberation struggle;

Whereas Brown, with the help of freedom fighter Harriet Tubman, planned and organized a liberation invasion of the South to liberate all slaves;

Whereas Brown began his liberation invasion at Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, but was surrounded and captured

by Federal troops led by enslaver Robert E. Lee, losing 2 more sons in the fighting;

Whereas the 13th Amendment to the Constitution was passed by Congress on January 31, 1865, and ratified on December 6, 1865, and provides that “Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.”;

Whereas, beginning in the 20th century, African Americans began to relocate from Southern farms to Southern cities, from the South to the Northeast, Midwest, and West, in a movement known as the “Great Migration”;

Whereas the relocation of formerly enslaved people and their descendants also included unfavorable, and at times unjust, interactions with law enforcement that often resulted in imprisonment and convict leasing;

Whereas convict leasing, slavery by another name, was a system that allowed prisons to lease imprisoned people to private entities, often corporations and plantations;

Whereas the remains of 95 persons, thought to be of African ancestry, who were subjected to the convict leasing system in the State of Texas, were discovered in 2018 at the construction site of the James Reese Career and Technical Center of the Fort Bend Independent School District in Sugar Land, Texas;

Whereas, while slavery was abolished, descendants of the enslaved continue to live with the effects of slavery’s progenies, including convict leasing, Black codes, Jim Crow laws, mass lynching, lawful segregation, police bru-

tality, mass incarceration, and institutionalized invidious discrimination (racism); and

Whereas, despite the horrors of slavery and against all odds, enslaved people became thought leaders and revolutionaries and changed the course of American history: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
 2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
 3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This resolution may be cited as the “Original Slavery
 5 Remembrance Month Resolution”.

6 **SEC. 2. SLAVERY REMEMBRANCE MONTH.**

7 That the House of Representatives and the Senate—
 8 (1) supports the annual designation of a “Slav-
 9 ery Remembrance Month” to serve as a reminder of
 10 the evils of slavery, its continuing effects, and the
 11 freedom fighters who fought to end this horrific
 12 crime against humanity;

13 (2) condemn slavery and its evil progenies, in-
 14 cluding—

15 (A) convict leasing;

16 (B) Black codes;

17 (C) Jim Crow laws;

18 (D) mass lynching;

19 (E) lawful segregation;

20 (F) police brutality;

1 (G) mass incarceration; and

2 (H) institutionalized invidious discrimina-

3 tion;

4 (3) encourage all to acknowledge the impor-
5 tance of slavery remembrance; and

6 (4) authorizes and requests the President to
7 issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the
8 United States to observe such month with appro-
9 priate ceremonies and activities.

○

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1244

To posthumously award a historic Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to Africans and their descendants enslaved within our country from August 20, 1619, to December 6, 1865.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 28, 2023

Mr. GREEN of Texas (for himself, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. CARSON, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. KEATING, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. ALLRED, Ms. BUSH, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. SOTO, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. TRONE, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. ROSS, Mr. KILMER, Ms. TITUS, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. EVANS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. IVEY, Ms. MENG, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. CASAR, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. OMAR, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. NADLER, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. PORTER, Mr. MFUME, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. POCAN, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. WATERS, Mr. FROST, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. TONKO, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. GALLEGU, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. BROWN, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. COHEN, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. LIEU, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, and Ms. CLARKE of New York) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration, and the Budget, for a period to be subse-

quently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To posthumously award a historic Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to Africans and their descendants enslaved within our country from August 20, 1619, to December 6, 1865.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
 2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “The original legislation
 5 awarding a historic Congressional Gold Medal, collectively,
 6 to Africans and their descendants enslaved within our
 7 country from August 20, 1619, to December 6, 1865”.

8 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

9 Congress finds the following:

10 (1) Human beings were systematically abducted
 11 from the continent of Africa and placed against their
 12 will onto ships that would cross the Atlantic Ocean.

13 (2) These persons were chained within the
 14 holds of ships in horrendous conditions for the dura-
 15 tion of the transatlantic journey, which lasted up to
 16 six months.

1 (3) Upon arrival in North America, they were
2 forced into labor among the English and European
3 colonies that would later become the United States.

4 (4) Their enslavement was concentrated on
5 farms and plantations that produced crops such as
6 cotton, tobacco, and sugar cane.

7 (5) The practice of slavery continued up to and
8 past the eventual American Revolution against Eng-
9 land and the founding of the United States of Amer-
10 ica.

11 (6) In the ensuing decades, slavery persisted
12 primarily in States where the economy was based
13 significantly on farming.

14 (7) The treatment of enslaved people continued
15 to be horrendous in nature, including exploitation,
16 family separation, rape, torture, and degradation,
17 among other cruelties.

18 (8) Slave labor was essential to the functioning
19 of many farms and plantations and therefore was es-
20 sential to the growth of the United States economy
21 as a whole.

22 (9) Slave labor was used to build notable build-
23 ings and monuments in the United States, including
24 the United States Capitol Building, the White
25 House, the Washington Monument, Mount Vernon,

1 which was the home of George Washington, and
2 Monticello, which was the home of Thomas Jeffer-
3 son.

4 (10) The profits from and involvement of slave
5 labor were also essential to the construction of the
6 Smithsonian Institution, Wall Street, Harvard Uni-
7 versity, Georgetown University, and Fort Sumter.

8 (11) It has been estimated that the total eco-
9 nomic value of slave labor is between \$5.9 trillion
10 and \$14.2 trillion in 2009 dollars.

11 (12) The United States became increasingly di-
12 vided between slaveholding and non-slaveholding
13 States and territories, including as to whether slav-
14 ery should be expanded to new States and territories
15 or abolished altogether.

16 (13) The secession of States from the United
17 States began on December 20, 1860, and led to the
18 formation of the Confederate States of America on
19 February 4, 1861.

20 (14) The American Civil War began on April
21 12, 1861, with the attack on Fort Sumter by Con-
22 federate forces.

23 (15) On January 1, 1863, President Abraham
24 Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation de-

1 claring that “all persons held as slaves” in Confed-
2 erate States “henceforward shall be free”.

3 (16) After four years of grueling battle and
4 conflict, the Civil War concluded with the surrender
5 of the commander of the Confederate forces on April
6 9, 1865, although fighting continued until November
7 6, 1865, and the Civil War was proclaimed to be
8 over by President Andrew Johnson on August 20,
9 1866.

10 (17) The 13th Amendment to the United States
11 Constitution abolishing slavery passed the Congress
12 on January 31, 1865, and was ratified by the re-
13 quired number of States on December 6, 1865.

14 (18) The text of the 13th Amendment states
15 that, “Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, ex-
16 cept as a punishment for crime whereof the party
17 shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the
18 United States, or any place subject to their jurisdic-
19 tion.”.

20 (19) The use of slave labor over hundreds of
21 years resulted in immense suffering and deprivation
22 among the people who fell victim to these abhorrent
23 practices.

1 (20) At the same time, the extensive, long-term
2 use of unpaid labor advantaged the United States
3 economy immeasurably.

4 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

5 (a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the
6 House of Representatives and the President pro tempore
7 of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the
8 award, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold medal of ap-
9 propriate design dedicated to the enslaved persons collec-
10 tively in recognition of their service as the greatest con-
11 tributors to the foundation of America’s economic great-
12 ness.

13 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the
14 award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the
15 Treasury shall strike the gold medal with suitable em-
16 blems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the
17 Secretary.

18 (c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—Following the
19 award of the gold medal described in subsection (a), the
20 gold medal shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution,
21 where it will be displayed at the National Museum of Afri-
22 can American History & Culture and made available for
23 research.

1 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may strike and sell
3 duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under sec-
4 tion 3, at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the bronze
5 medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery,
6 and overhead expenses.

7 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALES.—The amounts received
8 from the sale of duplicate medals under subsection (a)
9 shall be deposited in the United States Mint Public Enter-
10 prise Fund.

11 (c) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is
12 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint
13 Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be nec-
14 essary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under
15 this Act.

16 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

17 The gold medal struck pursuant to this Act is a na-
18 tional medal for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United
19 States Code.

20 **SEC. 6. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

21 The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of
22 complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010,
23 shall be determined by reference to the latest statement
24 titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this
25 Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record
26 by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, pro-

- 1 vided that such statement has been submitted prior to the
- 2 vote on passage.



118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8933

To amend the Securities Act of 1933 to require covered issuers to carry out a racial equity audit every 2 years, to require atonement for the descendants of enslaved persons, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 5, 2024

Mr. GREEN of Texas (for himself, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. EVANS, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To amend the Securities Act of 1933 to require covered issuers to carry out a racial equity audit every 2 years, to require atonement for the descendants of enslaved persons, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Original Securities and
5 Exchange Atonement Act of 2024”.

1 **SEC. 2. RACIAL EQUITY AUDIT.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Securities Act of 1933 is
3 amended by inserting after section 4A (15 U.S.C. 77d–
4 1) the following:

5 **“SEC. 4B. RACIAL EQUITY AUDIT.**

6 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the end of the
7 6-month period beginning on the date of enactment of this
8 section, and every 2 years thereafter, each covered issuer
9 shall—

10 “(1) conduct an independent audit to assess
11 within each line of business—

12 “(A) the issuer’s policies and practices on
13 civil rights, equity, diversity, and inclusion;

14 “(B) how such policies and practices affect
15 the issuer’s business; and

16 “(C) whether the issuer, any predecessor
17 institution of the issuer, or any affiliate of the
18 issuer had direct or indirect ties to or profited
19 from the institution of slavery;

20 “(2) issue a report to the Commission con-
21 taining—

22 “(A) in the case of—

23 “(i) the initial report or any subse-
24 quent report for which the covered issuer
25 determines material changes have occurred
26 since the previous report, all findings and

1 determinations made in carrying out the
2 assessments required under paragraph (1);
3 or

4 “(ii) a subsequent report for which
5 the covered issuer determines no material
6 changes have occurred since the previous
7 report, an attestation that no material
8 changes were found under the assessments
9 required under paragraph (1);

10 “(B) to the extent the issuer identifies ties
11 to or profits from the institution of slavery, a
12 disclosure of the steps the issuer has taken to
13 reconcile such ties or profits; and

14 “(C) to the extent the issuer identifies ties
15 to or profits from the institution of slavery and
16 has not taken steps to reconcile such ties or
17 profits, a disclosure of the steps to reconcile
18 such ties or profits the issuer plans to take,
19 which may include—

20 “(i) startup capital and funded sav-
21 ings programs in low to moderate income
22 communities for low to moderate income
23 individuals residing in such communities;

1 “(ii) grants or contributions to his-
2 torically black colleges and universities;
3 and

4 “(iii) grants or contributions to his-
5 torically black organizations exempt from
6 taxation as described in paragraph (3) or
7 (4) section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue
8 Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation
9 under section 501(a) of such Code; and

10 “(3) make the report described under para-
11 graph (2) available to the public, including on a
12 website of the issuer and a website of the Commis-
13 sion.

14 “(b) FAILURE TO ISSUE REPORT.—

15 “(1) ENFORCEMENT BY COMMISSION.—

16 “(A) COVERED ISSUER FINES.—Any cov-
17 ered issuer that fails to issue a report required
18 under subsection (a)(2), or that reports false,
19 misleading, or inaccurate information in such a
20 report, shall be fined by the Commission in an
21 amount of \$20,000 per day until the report is
22 issued, or until the report is corrected to not be
23 false, misleading, or inaccurate, as applicable.

24 “(B) EMPLOYEE FINES.—Any employee or
25 officer of a covered issuer who intentionally

1 fails to issue a report required under subsection
2 (a)(2) or that reports false, misleading, or inac-
3 curate information in such report, shall be fined
4 by the Commission in an amount of \$2,000 per
5 day until the report is issued, or until the re-
6 port is corrected to not be false, misleading, or
7 inaccurate, as applicable.

8 “(C) TRANSFER OF AMOUNTS.—The Com-
9 mission shall transfer—

10 “(i) 50 percent of the fines collected
11 pursuant to subparagraphs (A) and (B) to
12 the Secretary of the Treasury, and the
13 Secretary of the Treasury shall, without
14 further appropriation, use such funds to
15 carry out the duties of the Office of Minor-
16 ity Low to Moderate Income Programs;
17 and

18 “(ii) 50 percent of the fines collected
19 pursuant to subparagraphs (A) and (B) to
20 the Secretary of Housing and Urban De-
21 velopment, and the Secretary of Housing
22 and Urban Development shall, without fur-
23 ther appropriation, use such funds to carry
24 out—

1 “(I) a program to provide hous-
2 ing counseling and homebuyer assist-
3 ance, including downpayments, closing
4 costs, and interest rate buydowns, to
5 first-time, first-generation minority
6 low to moderate income homebuyers;

7 “(II) eviction and foreclosure as-
8 sistance to minority low to moderate
9 income renters and homebuyers;

10 “(III) affordable housing produc-
11 tion under the Housing Trust Fund
12 established under section 1338 of the
13 Federal Housing Enterprises Finan-
14 cial Safety and Soundness act of 1992
15 (12 U.S.C. 4568), including perma-
16 nent supportive housing for people ex-
17 perienicing homelessness;

18 “(IV) rental assistance to eligible
19 low income households under the
20 Housing Choice Voucher Program
21 under section 8(o) of the United
22 States Housing Act of 1937 (42
23 U.S.C. 1437f(o)); and

24 “(V) formula grants to partici-
25 pating jurisdictions to conduct Equity

1 Plans under the rule of the Secretary
2 of Housing and Urban Development
3 implementing the requirement under
4 the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C.
5 3601) to affirmatively further fair
6 housing.

7 “(2) PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.—A person
8 that holds the securities of a covered issuer and suf-
9 fers harm as a result of the failure of such covered
10 issuer to issue a report required under subsection
11 (a)(2), may bring an action against the covered
12 issuer in the appropriate district court of the United
13 States.

14 “(3) WHISTLEBLOWER AWARDS.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall
16 pay an award or awards to 1 or more individ-
17 uals who voluntarily provided original informa-
18 tion to the Commission that led to the success-
19 ful enforcement of the fines required under sub-
20 paragraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (1) in the
21 case of the failure of a covered issuer to issue
22 a report required under subsection (a)(2) or
23 that reports false, misleading, or inaccurate in-
24 formation in such a report.

1 “(B) AMOUNT.—The amount of an award
2 under subparagraph (A) shall—

3 “(i) be established by the Commission
4 by rule in an amount that the Commission
5 determines is sufficient to create incentive
6 for individuals to voluntarily provide origi-
7 nal information and deter noncompliance
8 with subsection (a); and

9 “(ii) not be less than \$20,000.

10 “(C) ORIGINAL INFORMATION DEFINED.—
11 In this paragraph, the term ‘original informa-
12 tion’ means information that—

13 “(i) is derived from the independent
14 knowledge or analysis of an individual who
15 voluntarily provides the information to the
16 Commission;

17 “(ii) is not known to the Commission
18 from any other source, unless the whistle-
19 blower is the original source of the infor-
20 mation; and

21 “(iii) is not exclusively derived from
22 an allegation made in a judicial or admin-
23 istrative hearing, in a governmental report,
24 hearing, audit, or investigation, or from

1 the news media, unless the whistleblower is
2 a source of the information.

3 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 “(1) AREA MEDIAN INCOME.—With respect to
5 an individual, the term ‘area median income’ means
6 the median income for the area in which the indi-
7 vidual lives, as determined by the Secretary of Hous-
8 ing and Urban Development for purposes of the
9 United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437
10 et seq.).

11 “(2) COVERED ISSUER.—The term ‘covered
12 issuer’ means an issuer that—

13 “(A) makes use of the mails or any means
14 or instrumentality of interstate commerce; and

15 “(B) has—

16 “(i) more than 100 employees; or

17 “(ii) a capitalization of greater than
18 or equal to \$300,000,000.

19 “(3) LOW TO MODERATE INCOME.—With re-
20 spect to an individual, the term ‘low to moderate in-
21 come’ means the individual has earnings of less than
22 80 percent of the area median income.

23 “(4) MINORITY.—The term ‘minority’ means
24 racial and ethnic populations that are underrep-

1 resented in the general population relative to the
2 number of persons in the total population.

3 “(5) RECONCILE.—The term ‘reconcile’ means
4 to account for and balance in an equitable manner.”.

5 (b) OFFICE OF MINORITY LOW TO MODERATE IN-
6 COME PROGRAMS.—Chapter 3 of title 31, United States
7 Code, is amended—

8 (1) in subchapter I, by adding at the end the
9 following:

10 **“§ 317. Office of Minority Low to Moderate Income**
11 **Programs**

12 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established, within
13 the Department of the Treasury, an Office of Minority
14 Low to Moderate Income Programs.

15 “(b) DUTIES.—The Office of Minority Low to Mod-
16 erate Income Programs shall provide grants for—

17 “(1) startup capital and funded savings pro-
18 grams in low to moderate income minority commu-
19 nities for low to moderate income minority individ-
20 uals residing in such communities; and

21 “(2) such other programs determined appro-
22 priate by the Secretary in furtherance of atonement
23 for descendants of enslaved persons.

24 “(c) FUNDING.—

1 “(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

2 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
3 retary of the Treasury \$3,000,000,000 to carry out
4 this section.

5 “(2) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The Secretary
6 of the Treasury may use 2 percent of amounts ap-
7 propriated to carry out this section for administra-
8 tive expenses related to carrying out the duties of
9 the Office of Minority Low to Moderate Income Pro-
10 grams.

11 “(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

12 “(1) AREA MEDIAN INCOME.—With respect to a
13 community, the term ‘area median income’ means
14 the median income for the area in which the commu-
15 nity is located, as determined by the Secretary of
16 Housing and Urban Development for purposes of
17 the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C.
18 1437 et seq.).

19 “(2) LOW TO MODERATE INCOME COMMU-
20 NITY.—The term ‘low to moderate income commu-
21 nity’ means a census tract in which 51 percent or
22 more of the households located in the census tract
23 earn less than 80 percent of the area median in-
24 come.”; and

- 1 (2) in the table of contents for such chapter, by
- 2 inserting after the item relating to section 316 the
- 3 following:

“317. Office of Minority Low to Moderate Income Programs.”.



118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 657

Declaring unconditional war on racism and invidious discrimination and providing for the establishment of a Cabinet-level Department of Reconciliation charged with eliminating racism and invidious discrimination.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 18, 2023

Mr. GREEN of Texas submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Declaring unconditional war on racism and invidious discrimination and providing for the establishment of a Cabinet-level Department of Reconciliation charged with eliminating racism and invidious discrimination.

Whereas this resolution may be cited as the original resolution declaring unconditional war on racism and invidious discrimination and providing for the establishment of a Cabinet-level Department of Reconciliation;

Whereas this resolution is presented in the spirit of President Lyndon B. Johnson, who—on January 8, 1964, after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, during a time of great turmoil—proclaimed, “This administration today, here and now, declares unconditional war on poverty in America . . . Our aim is not only to relieve the

symptoms of poverty, but to cure it and, above all, to prevent it.”;

Whereas President Barack Obama indicated, “In fact, if we hadn’t declared ‘unconditional war on poverty in America,’ millions more Americans would be living in poverty today.”;

Whereas some of the programs produced by the War on Poverty include Medicaid, Medicare, expanded Social Security, and Head Start—all of which are still needed today;

Whereas racism and invidious discrimination—like poverty in 1964—remain pervasive in our country;

Whereas history is replete with examples of victims of racism and invidious discrimination being denied life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness;

Whereas systemic and institutionalized racism and invidious discrimination exist in virtually all areas of American life, including policing, criminal justice, housing, banking, voting, employment, education, the environment, and health care; and

Whereas the protestations in the aftermath of the tragic death of George Floyd are a clear indication that it has become necessary for Congress to take decisive, immediate and long-term legislative action to address the elimination of racism and invidious discrimination: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—
- 2 (1) condemns racism and invidious discrimina-
- 3 tion as evil and antithetical to the United States
- 4 Constitution;

1 (2) declares unconditional war on racism and
2 invidious discrimination in America and will provide
3 the resources and funding for their defeat; and

4 (3) shall pass legislation establishing a Cabinet-
5 level Department of Reconciliation charged with end-
6 ing racism and invidious discrimination, developing
7 and coordinating the implementation of a com-
8 prehensive national strategy to eliminate racism and
9 invidious discrimination, with a budget that shall be
10 the equivalent of not less than 10 percent of the De-
11 fense Department's budget, and headed by a Sec-
12 retary of Reconciliation appointed by the President
13 with the advice and consent of the Senate who shall
14 make semi-annual progress reports to Congress.

○

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 654

Calling on the Senate to remove the name of Richard B. Russell from
the Russell Senate Office Building.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 18, 2023

Mr. GREEN of Texas submitted the following resolution; which was referred
to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

RESOLUTION

Calling on the Senate to remove the name of Richard B.
Russell from the Russell Senate Office Building.

Whereas this resolution may be cited as the original resolution calling on the Senate to remove the name of Richard B. Russell from the Russell Senate Office Building;

Whereas Senator Richard B. Russell opposed civil rights as “unconstitutional and unwise”;

Whereas, in 1935, Senator Russell participated in his first filibuster of a civil rights bill, when he and his colleagues in the Senate stopped an anti-lynching bill with 6 days of nonstop talking;

Whereas, in 1936, Senator Russell stated in a re-election campaign speech that “as one who was born and reared in the atmosphere of the Old South, with 6 generations

of my forebears now resting beneath Southern soil, I am willing to go as far and make as great a sacrifice to preserve and insure White supremacy in the social, economic, and political life of our state as any man who lives within her borders”;

Whereas, in 1956, Senator Russell wrote an initial draft of the Southern Manifesto, the bicameral resolution stating support for segregation and refusal to observe *Brown v. Board of Education*;

Whereas, because President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Senator Russell, along with more than a dozen other Senators, including Herman Talmadge, boycotted the 1964 Democratic National Convention in Atlantic City;

Whereas, on March 17, 1964, the New York Times published an article entitled, “Relocate Negroes Evenly in States”, in which Senator Russell proposed a voluntary “racial relocation” program to adjust the imbalance of the African-American population between the 11 States of the old Confederacy and the rest of the Union;

Whereas, in 1972, shortly after Senator Russell’s death, the Senate voted in an overwhelming majority (99–1) that the Old Senate Office Building be named the Russell Senate Office Building;

Whereas historian Gilbert C. Fite wrote at the conclusion of his biography of Senator Russell, “White supremacy and racial segregation were to him cardinal principles for good and workable human relationships”; and

Whereas Public Law 115–58, a joint resolution signed into law on September 14, 2017, rejects “White nationalism, White supremacy, and neoNazism”: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) once again rejects White nationalism and
3 White supremacy as hateful expressions of intoler-
4 ance that are contradictory to the values that define
5 the people of the United States;

6 (2) condemns the use of captions, statutes, me-
7 morials, and artwork used or erected to memorialize
8 Senator Richard B. Russell, or any other lawmaker
9 who intentionally disavowed the Declaration of
10 Independence’s exhortation that all persons are cre-
11 ated equal; and

12 (3) calls on the Senate to remove the name of
13 Richard B. Russell from the Russell Senate Office
14 Building and to revert to using the building’s origi-
15 nal name, the Old Senate Office Building, until the
16 Senate finds a suitable honoree.

○

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 633

Recognizing Prince Hall for his contributions as a Revolutionary Era activist, Masonic leader, and his lasting impact in the African-American fight for justice.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 5, 2025

Mr. GREEN of Texas submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Recognizing Prince Hall for his contributions as a Revolutionary Era activist, Masonic leader, and his lasting impact in the African-American fight for justice.

Whereas Prince Hall was a free Black man who lived in colonial Boston, Massachusetts, circa 1735 to 1807;

Whereas Prince Hall was an ardent abolitionist and prolific activist in Boston, Massachusetts, during the American Revolutionary period;

Whereas, in 1775, after being denied by an all-White Masonic lodge, Hall and 14 other free Black men formed their own lodge;

Whereas Hall was elected as the leader, or “Worshipful Master”, within the newly formed African Lodge #1, later renamed African Lodge No. 459;

Whereas, because of this action, Prince Hall is known as the “Father of Black Freemasonry”;

Whereas Prince Hall Freemasonry is recognized by many as the oldest continuously active organization founded by African Americans in the United States;

Whereas the Prince Hall Freemasons employed advocacy and community work to assist Blacks seeking citizenship, education, and economic advancement;

Whereas, in 1777, Prince Hall petitioned the Massachusetts government to abolish slavery and is considered by some to be the first to publicly proclaim that Black people should be granted the rights laid out in the Declaration of Independence;

Whereas, in 1787, a committee of 12 from the African Lodge, headed by Worshipful Master Hall, drafted the Boston Plan, a detailed plan for African Americans to return to Africa, to free themselves from their hostile living conditions in the United States;

Whereas the resettlement plan requested the Massachusetts General Court to provide passage for families with the necessary provisions, utensils, and articles, as well as money to procure lands to settle upon;

Whereas, in 1788, Prince Hall petitioned the Massachusetts Legislature to protect Black sailors from being kidnapped and sold into slavery;

Whereas Prince Hall’s influence remains within the 5,000 lodges and 47 grand lodges who trace their lineage to the original lodge he founded; and

Whereas this resolution may be cited as the “Original Resolution Honoring Prince Hall”: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives recog-
2 nizes and thanks Prince Hall for his contributions as a
3 Revolutionary Era activist and Masonic leader, as well as
4 for his lasting impact in the African-American fight for
5 justice.



119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 644

Recognizing the 25th Army Corps of the Union Army and thanking them for their role in capturing Galveston, Texas, on June 5th, 1865, and liberating thousands of enslaved people.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 8, 2025

Mr. GREEN of Texas submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the 25th Army Corps of the Union Army and thanking them for their role in capturing Galveston, Texas, on June 5th, 1865, and liberating thousands of enslaved people.

Whereas this resolution may be cited as the “Original Resolution Honoring the 25th Army Corps”;

Whereas the 25th Army Corps was the largest unit of African Americans in the Union Army during the Civil War, comprised of more than 1,000 soldiers;

Whereas the 25th Army Corps captured Galveston, Texas, on June 5, 1865, a week before General Gordon Granger’s arrival on June 19, 1865;

Whereas the 25th Army Corps chased the rebel government and soldiers of Texas into Mexico and spread the word

about freedom, liberating thousands of enslaved people in Texas before the arrival of General Granger;

Whereas the 25th Army Corps were the first unit to occupy the former capital of the Confederacy, Richmond, Virginia, on April 3, 1864;

Whereas the members of the 25th Army Corps, who were previously held in the bondage of slavery, not only emancipated enslaved persons in Galveston, they also released Union soldiers and enslaved persons taken captive by the Confederate Army;

Whereas the soldiers of the 25th Army Corps, through their actions and sacrifices, brought a crucial victory for the Union and played an indispensable role in the struggle for human rights, contributing to the abolition of slavery;

Whereas the 25th Army Corps not only waged war against the Confederacy but also waged a significant battle against racial prejudice and discrimination across the Nation; and

Whereas the legacy of the 25th Army Corps continues to inspire subsequent generations, instilling the values of courage, freedom, and justice and reminding us of our shared humanity: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives recog-
 2 nizes and thanks the 25th Army Corps of the Union Army
 3 for their role in capturing Galveston, Texas, on June 5,
 4 1865, and liberating thousands of enslaved people days
 5 prior to the arrival of General Gordon Granger on June
 6 19, 1865.

○

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 632

Recognizing the courageous actions of Reverend Nat Turner in his fight to abolish slavery and make the majestic words of the Jeffersonian Declaration of Independence, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness”, apply to the enslaved, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 5, 2025

Mr. GREEN of Texas submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the courageous actions of Reverend Nat Turner in his fight to abolish slavery and make the majestic words of the Jeffersonian Declaration of Independence, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness”, apply to the enslaved, and for other purposes.

Whereas this resolution may be cited as the original resolution recognizing the courageous actions of Reverend Nat Turner;

Whereas Reverend Nat Turner was born into slavery in Southampton County, Virginia, in 1800;

Whereas, after learning to read and write at a young age, Reverend Nat Turner became a pastor who, because of his professed prophetic visions, was dubbed “The Prophet”;

Whereas, at the age of 30, Reverend Nat Turner led one of the most significant rebellions in American history on August 21, 1831;

Whereas the rebellion, also known as the Southampton Insurrection, demonstrated the profound desire for freedom among enslaved persons;

Whereas, in his efforts to liberate those in bondage from the crime against humanity known as slavery, Reverend Nat Turner employed controversial methods, ultimately taking the lives of more than 55 people for which he was condemned and executed;

Whereas, in retaliation for the Turner rebellion to free the enslaved, militia, enslavers, and mobs murdered as many as 120 African Americans, both enslaved and free;

Whereas, also in retaliation, slave State legislatures passed laws to fortify slavery by restraining rights of the enslaved to learn to read, write, and assemble;

Whereas the Turner rebellion was a harbinger of war to come between slave States and free States, the Civil War;

Whereas Reverend Nat Turner’s actions inspired other acts of resistance among enslaved human beings determined to realize the Jeffersonian unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness and kindled the national debate concerning the injustices of slavery;

Whereas this debate contributed to the eventual abolition of slavery, a critical step forward toward the realization of the noble Jeffersonian ideal of all persons (enslavers and enslaved alike) being created equal and endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, among them life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; and

Whereas this House recognizes that discussions about the freedom fighters such as Reverend Nat Turner and John Brown must consider the historic injustices and brutal conditions they were fighting against: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) honors the freedom fighter Reverend Nat
3 Turner for his courage and sacrifice in the face of
4 brutal and systemic injustice;

5 (2) recognizes the contributions of Reverend
6 Nat Turner to the eventual abolition of slavery in
7 the United States;

8 (3) encourages continued study, understanding,
9 and dialogue about the complexities of the struggle
10 for racial justice in the United States, including the
11 role of freedom fighters such as Reverend Nat Tur-
12 ner;

13 (4) reaffirms its commitment to the principles
14 of noble Jeffersonian ideal of all persons being cre-
15 ated equal and endowed by their creator with certain
16 unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty,
17 and the pursuit of happiness; and

1 (5) calls on the citizens of the United States to
2 observe a moment of reflection on Slavery Remem-
3 brance Day for all those who suffered and died in
4 the struggle against a great crime against humanity,
5 slavery.



119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 645

Honoring John Brown’s relentless endeavors in his pursuit of liberty for all human beings, his unyielding opposition to the institution of slavery, and his significant role in the abolition of this monstrous crime against humanity.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 8, 2025

Mr. GREEN of Texas submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Honoring John Brown’s relentless endeavors in his pursuit of liberty for all human beings, his unyielding opposition to the institution of slavery, and his significant role in the abolition of this monstrous crime against humanity.

Whereas this resolution may be cited as the “Original Resolution Honoring John Brown”;

Whereas the United States was established on the majestic inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness as proclaimed in the Declaration of Independence;

Whereas these fundamental inalienable rights, despite being declared the moral compass of our Nation, were not initially applied to all of its inhabitants;

Whereas this was especially evident in the early chapters of our history where slavery stood in stark contradiction to these noble ideals;

Whereas, throughout history, countless courageous souls have endeavored to ensure these rights were honored for all people, irrespective of their race, ethnicity, or origins;

Whereas, in the face of the contradictions of the early United States, many brave patriots of different hues took it upon themselves the task of shaping the Nation toward its founding ideals;

Whereas Paul Revere was the Anglo patriot whose midnight ride in 1775 symbolized the quest for liberty as he informed fellow Americans of the impending battle for their rights;

Whereas Crispus Attucks, a man of African and Native American descent, became a martyr in the fight for liberty, making the ultimate sacrifice as the first casualty of the American Revolution in the Boston Massacre of 1770, personifying the high cost of liberty;

Whereas John Brown, a White patriot who epitomized the momentous fight for liberty, held an unwavering conviction in the absolute immorality of slavery and dedicated his life to abolishing this reprehensible crime against humanity in the United States;

Whereas John Brown raised awareness about the inhumanity of slavery while galvanizing support for its abolition;

Whereas John Brown's liberation tactics, which included his participation in the violent conflict known as "Bleeding Kansas" as well as his raid on Harpers Ferry in then-Virginia, influenced the course of the Nation's history;

Whereas the raid on Harpers Ferry in 1859, orchestrated by John Brown, was a watershed moment that sparked national debate on slavery and fast-tracked the Nation toward the Civil War and ultimately the Emancipation Proclamation;

Whereas John Brown's sacrifice in the face of oppressive powers was a demonstration of his profound belief in liberty;

Whereas John Brown's liberation tactics played a pivotal role in pushing our Nation toward the fulfillment of its founding principles of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness;

Whereas recognition of John Brown's contribution to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness fosters a better understanding of the struggles faced in our journey toward the abolition of the horrific crime against humanity known as slavery;

Whereas John Brown's life and legacy evoke reflection on our Nation's history and the high cost of liberty;

Whereas, like Crispus Attucks, John Brown should be honored for sacrificing his life in the name of liberty; and

Whereas, just as Paul Revere's midnight ride was a harbinger of the battle between the colonies and Britain to come, John Brown's raid on the Federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry to initiate a slave revolution was a harbinger of the war between slave and free States to come: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This resolution may be cited as the “Original Resolu-
3 tion Honoring John Brown”.

4 **SEC. 2. HONORING JOHN BROWN.**

5 That the House of Representatives—

6 (1) acknowledges and honors John Brown’s re-
7 lentless endeavors in his pursuit of liberty for all
8 human beings, his unyielding opposition to the insti-
9 tution of slavery, and his significant role in the abo-
10 lition of this monstrous crime against humanity; and

11 (2) encourages every American to reflect on our
12 Nation’s diverse and complex history as we strive for
13 a more perfect Union, one that is truly inclusive and
14 upholds the majestic, inalienable rights of life, lib-
15 erty, and the pursuit of happiness for all.

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